

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/087,833

Examiner

Ram N Kackar

Applicant(s)

AHN, GYE-TAK

Art Unit

1763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/8/2003.
  2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5-12 and 15-17.
  3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 March 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
  4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
    - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
  6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**
7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
    - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____             |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____  | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                  |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|  | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

**The application is amended as below:**

**---- Claim 1 is amended as below:**

A plate assembly for use in supporting a workpiece in a processing chamber while the workpiece is being processes in a vacuum, said plate assembly comprising:

an underlying plate, and a pad that is disposed on said plate for use in supporting the workpiece, said pad being of a rubbery material and having an upper surface remote from said plate, and said pad having a plurality of parallel grooves extending in the upper surface thereof, said grooves extending depthwise less than completely through the pad and extending lengthwise all the way across said pad from one side of said upper surface of the pad to the other, whereby the vacuum in the processing chamber can act through said grooves on the rear surface of a workpiece that is resting on the upper surface of the pad.

**---- Claim 7 is amended as below:**

A processing apparatus including:

a processing chamber;

a vacuum system connected to said processing chamber so as to evacuate said chamber and thereby produce a vacuum atmosphere in said processing chamber;

Art Unit: 1763

a plate assembly disposed in said processing chamber for supporting a workpiece as the workpiece is being processed, said plate assembly including a plate, and a pad that is disposed on said plate, said pad being of a rubbery material and having an upper surface remote from said plate, and said pad having a plurality of parallel grooves extending in the upper surface thereof, said grooves extending depthwise less than completely through the pad and extending lengthwise all the way across said pad from one side of said upper surface of the pad to the other, whereby the vacuum in the processing chamber can act through grooves on the rear surface of a workpiece that is resting on the upper surface of the pad;

a lifter disposed in said processing chamber below said plate assembly, said lifter being movable vertically in said processing chamber; and

at least one lift pin extending vertically from said lifter and movable into and out of contact with the rear surface of a workpiece resting on said pad to selectively raise and lower the workpiece from and on to said pad.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Adam C. Volentine on 1/13/2004.

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

#### ALLOWANCE

2. Claims 1,2,5-12 and 15-17 are allowed
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Art Unit: 1763

Claims 1 and 7 are allowable over the prior art of record for the limitation of parallel grooves open to vacuum from the sides only in a pad of rubbery material in the context of the other limitations of the claims. These limitations are not fairly disclosed or suggested in the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ram N Kackar whose telephone number is 571 272 1436. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 A.M to 5:P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Mills can be reached on 571 272 1439. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 0661.

RK

*Parviz Hassanzaadeh*  
*primary Examiner*  
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